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THE NEW AVENGERS

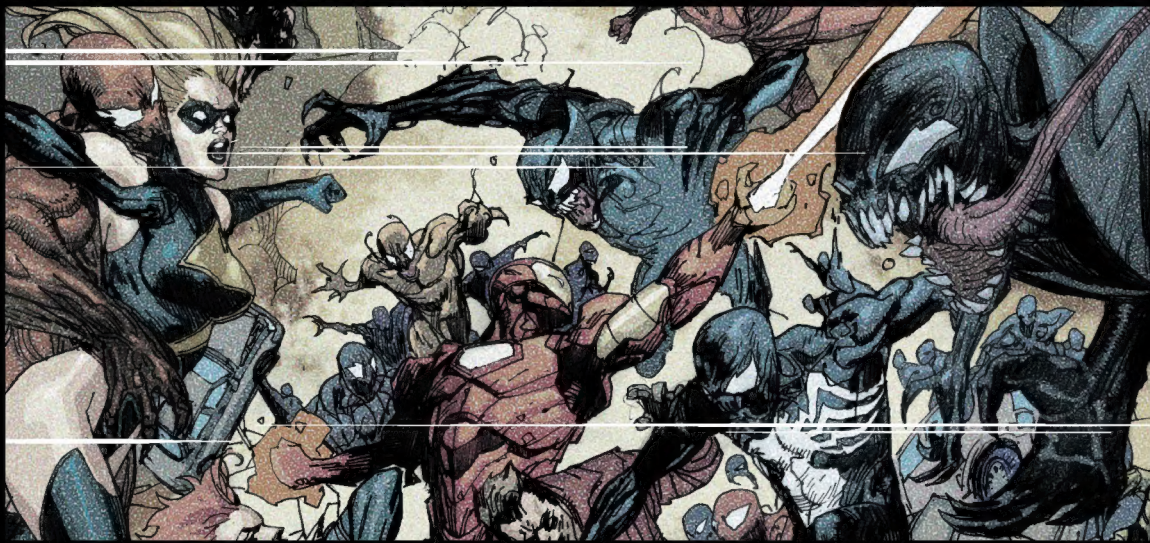


THE NEW AVENGERS

THE TRUST PART FIVE PREVIOUSLY...

After the superhuman civil war, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman went underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton--now wearing the costume of Ronin--Doctor Strange, Iron Fist, and Maya Lopez, the deaf woman also known as Echo, they operate out of Doctor Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum.

Recently, during a fight in Japan, Elektra, the leader of the Hand, was killed. Upon her death, her body reverted into its true form: that of a shape-shifting Skrull, sending the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust. While on a hunt for more information about the possible alien invasion, Wolverine discovers the plans of a mysterious villain called the Hood who is about to launch an attack on Avengers Tower, home of Tony Stark's Mighty Avengers. Unbeknownst to the Avengers, the Hood has organized a large number of super-villains and is preparing to take down the members of the super hero community one by one.



Meanwhile, after a mysterious virus is dropped to Earth from a satellite, most of the citizens of New York City have turned into symbiotes. Led by Ms. Marvel and Iron Man, the Mighty Avengers enter into a battle that they may not win, especially when they begin to transform as well...

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LUKE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU TODAY?

OKAY.

BUT BRACE YOURSELF FOR SOME CRAZY-ASS @##@#.

YEAH, YEAH... SPEAK!



WELL, THE AVENGERS ALL TURNED INTO *MONSTERS* TODAY.

MONSTERS?

BIG @## MONSTERS.

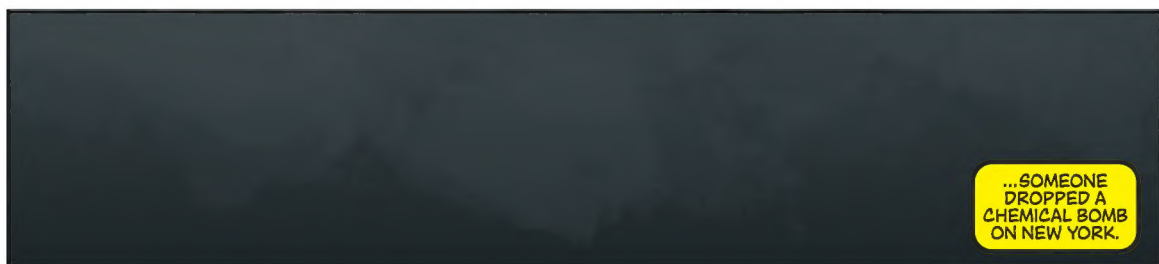
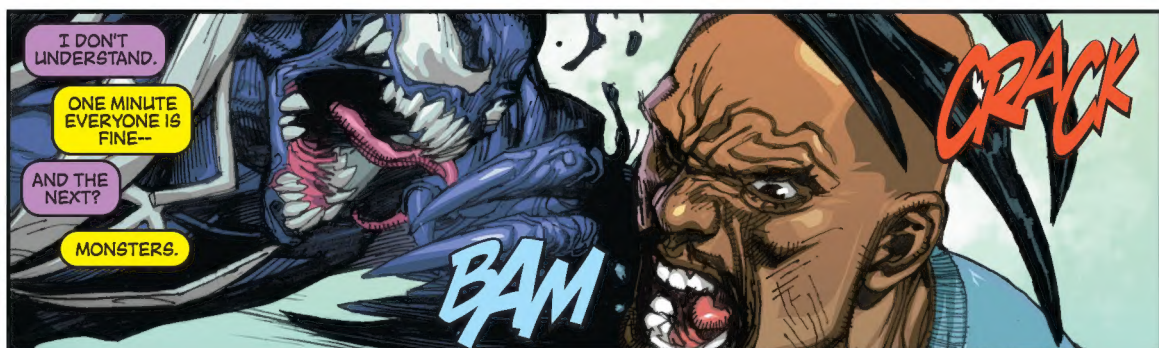
METAPHORICALLY?

NUH-UH. ACTUAL FANG-SHOWIN', DROOLING, TRIPPIN' MONSTERS.

WHO?

ALL OF 'EM.

SPIDER-MAN, DANNY, RONIN, ECHO, DOC STRANGE, WOLVERINE...





UH,
HEY...
LUKE
CAGE?
YEAH.



WHAT
IS...GOIN'
ON?
WHAT
IS THIS?



WHO? WHO
DROPPED WHAT?

WELL,
I DON'T KNOW.

BUT EVERYONE AND
EVERYTHING LIVING AND
BREATHING IN THE ENTIRE CITY
OF NEW YORK TURNED VENOM
AND WAS RUNNING AROUND
TRANSFORMED!

EATING AND
FIGHTING AND
SCREAMING.

IT WAS
IN-SANE.

HOW
THE HELL
SHOULD
I KNOW?

ALL I
KNOW
IS...



...THE REST
OF MY CREW
AIN'T DOIN' SO
WELL.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHY DID *YOU* NOT CHANGE?

NOW I KNOW IT'S BECAUSE OF MY
POWERS—MY UNBREAKABLE SKIN.

NO CHEMICAL GOT INTO
MY PORES. NO CHANGE.

THEN I SLAMMED HEADFIRST INTO
STARK'S AVENGERS TEAM, AND
THE ONES WITH THE POWERS WERE
STILL FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT--

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

I MEAN,
COME ON!



THE WHOLE CITY
WAS VENOM'S?

EVERY MAN, WOMAN,
CHILD, DOG, CAT AND BIRD.

AND WE COULDN'T
EXACTLY BREAK OUT
THE CANS BECAUSE
THESE'RE JUST
PEOPLE.

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE OF NEW
YORK AND THEY DON'T KNOW
WHAT THE @#\$\$ IS GOING ON OR
WHAT THEY'RE DOING, RIGHT?

SO NOW WHAT? YOU'RE FIGHTING
ALONGSIDE CAROL AND THE OTHERS.

EXACTLY.



TONY STARK DIDN'T
TRY TO ARREST YOU?

HAD HIS
HANDS FULL.

HE LIP
AND LEFT
ANYHOW.

HE LEFT?

HE WAS
TRYING TO
CURE THE
PROBLEM.

MAN!

AND I LOOKED
OVER AND LOGAN'S
REALLY ALL TWISTIN'
AND TURNIN'.

TWISTING AND
TURNING?

HEALING FACTOR.
KEEPS TRYING TO
PUSH THIS OUT'A
ME.

IT HURTS A LOT
MORE THAN YOU'D
THIIAARGH!



YOUR FRIEND
THE WASP WAS
A SIXTY-FOOT
VENOM MONSTER.

SHE'S NOT
MY FRIEND,
SHE'S CAROL'S
FRIEND.

WELL, SHE
WAS A
SIXTY-FOOT
MONSTER.

RIGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE CITY?

RIGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
MILLION OTHER
MONSTERS.

ASH!

FABOOM

TONY STARK
WHIPPED SOMETHING
TOGETHER...

...AND EVERYTHING
CALMED DOWN.



WOW.

YEAH.

WOW, IS--
WAS THIS
ON TV?

I'M SURE
IT IS AND
WAS.

UH...

WHAT
AM I--?

MOMMY!



JUST LIKE THAT?
JUST LIKE THAT, IT WAS DONE?
WELL, TO US IT LOOKED THAT WAY. I'M SURE ON STARK'S END IT WAS A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED.
HOW DID IT HAPPEN? WHO-WHO DID IT?
I DO NOT KNOW.
WE SHOULD GET A T.V. IN HERE.



MAN!
AND THE BABY? YOU? NOTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?
NO. UH-UH.
GOOD.



I HAD NO IDEA. I WAS TAKING A NAP.
WHY DO YOU THINK NOTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?



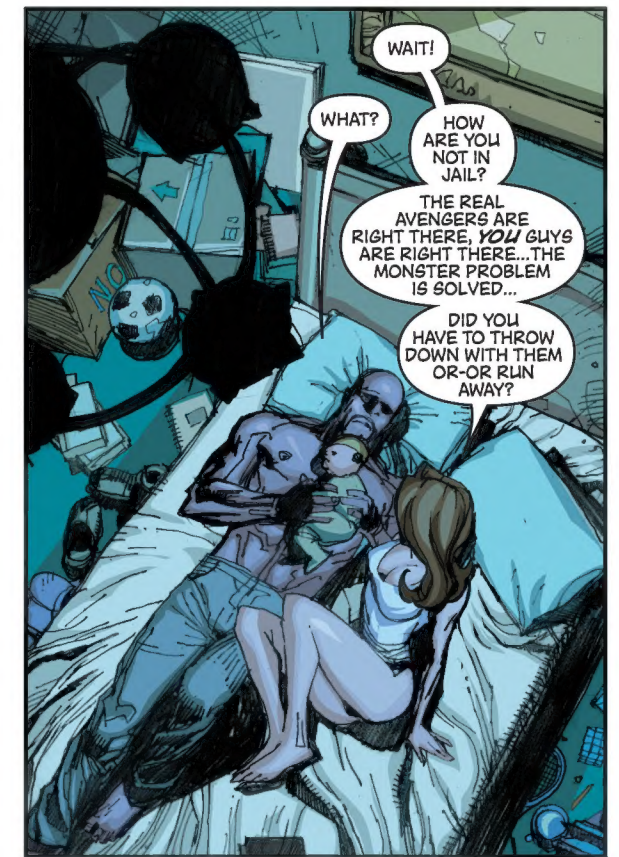
LUKE--
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A SKRULL. I'M NOT SAYING THAT--I'M ASKIN'--
NO, YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT.
I'M OKAY.



YOU'RE MOSTLY OKAY.
OKAY. I'M GOING INSANE. BUT I'M HANDLIN' IT. I'M DEALIN'.
MAYBE DOCTOR STRANGE'S HOUSE OF CREEPY FLOATING BOOKS AND WEIRD WINDOWS PROTECTED US.
I DON'T KNOW.
BY THE WAY--JUST SOMETHING TO PUT IN YOUR TIARA FOR THE NEAR FUTURE...



WHAT?
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE HERE ANYMORE.
YEAH?
OH YEAH.
WONG CREEPIN' YOU OUT?
I-DON'T-WANT-TO-LIVE-HERE-ANYMORE.



WAIT!
WHAT?
HOW ARE YOU NOT IN JAIL?
THE REAL AVENGERS ARE RIGHT THERE, YOU GUYS ARE RIGHT THERE...THE MONSTER PROBLEM IS SOLVED...
DID YOU HAVE TO THROW DOWN WITH THEM OR-OR RUN AWAY?



HONESTLY--I THINK THIS IS WHY I'VE GOT SUCH LOVE FOR THIS TEAM WE'RE STUCK WITH.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID THE SECOND THEY CHANGED BACK TO HALF-NAKED SUPER HEROES ON THE RUN FROM THE LAW?



THEY RAN LIKE HELL?

THEY *STAYED* AND THEY *HELPED*.

EVEN THOUGH THE PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO BRING US IN WERE RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF OUR FACES AND CLEARLY IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THE SHAPE WE WERE IN...

WE DIDN'T EVEN DISCUSS IT WITH EACH OTHER. WE JUST GOT UP, ALL OF US, IN WHATEVER CONDITION WE WERE IN...AND HELPED.

I SWEAR, I DREAMT THIS ENTIRE THING ONCE.

I'M CASTING A SERIES OF SPELLS THAT WILL SOOTHE THE PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL STATE.

MAGIC LEXAPRO.

IS EVERYONE OKAY?

YEAH, WE'RE ALL JUST PEACHY.



STARK AND CAROL AND THE OTHERS JUST STARED IN AMAZEMENT.

I'M STARING IN AMAZEMENT AND I WASN'T EVEN THERE.



YOU SHOW ME WHERE YOUR MOMMY IS. DO YOU KNOW HER FIRST NAME?

WE WERE SHOPPING.

WHAT'S HER NAME? DO YOU KNOW HER NAME?

DID CAROL SAY ANYTHING THEN?

NAH.



AND THEY JUST LET YOU GO?

PRETTY MUCH.

MAYBE THINGS WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL NOW.

MAYBE WE DODGED A BULLET BECAUSE THE ENTIRE CITY WAS A MESS.

MAYBE IT'S ### LIKE THIS THAT'LL MAKE CAROL AND STARK REALIZE HOW MESSED UP EVERYTHING IS.

MAYBE.



MAYBE THEY'RE SKRULLS.

MAYBE.



OH, AND JESSICA DREW WAS WITH THEM.

NO!



YES.

SHE SWITCHED SIDES?

LOOKS LIKE.

SO STARK KNOWS WHERE WE LIVE--ABOUT THE SKRULL THING.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.



NOW THAT YOU KNOW I'M NOT A SKRULL, CAN I FREAK OUT ABOUT THERE *BEING* SKRULLS?

YES.

I'M FREAKED OUT.

I KNOW.

YOU'RE NOT?

I AM. I'M DEALIN'.



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? WE-WE COULD BE POUNCED ON AT ANY SECOND.

WE COULD *ALWAYS* GET POUNCED ON AT ANY SECOND. THAT'S LIFE.

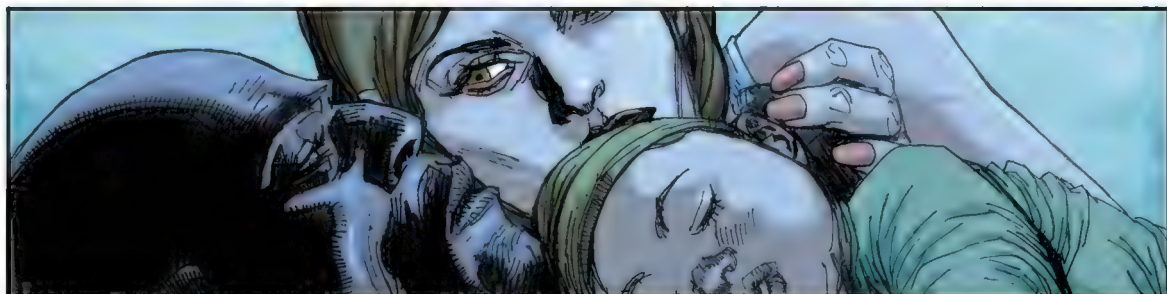
YEAH, BUT *THIS--*

I'M WORKIN' ON IT.



CAN I WORK ON IT TOO?

YOU'RE THE PRIVATE EYE. YOU SHOULD BE WORKING ON IT *MORE* THAN US.



ANYONE COULD BE A SKRULL!

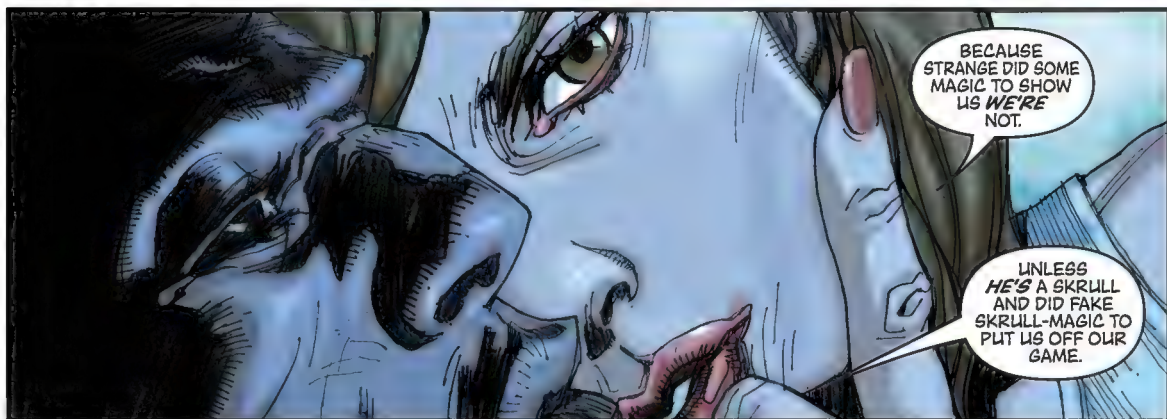
YES.

ANYONE IN THE WORLD?!

ANIMALS TOO.

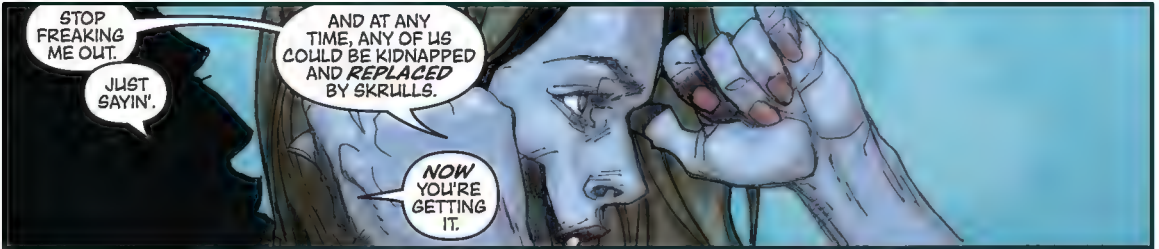
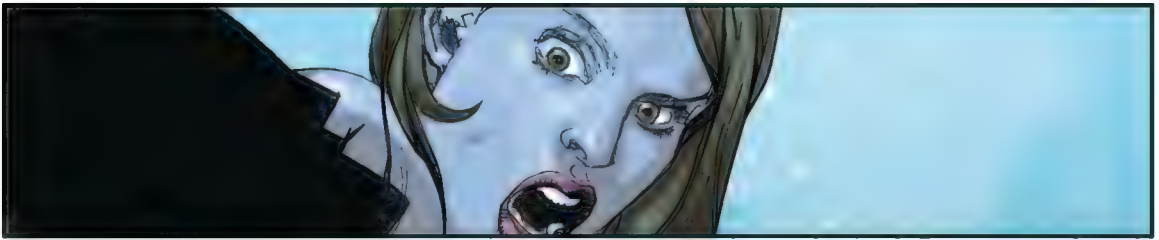
EXCEPT US.

SUPPOSABLY.



BECAUSE STRANGE DID SOME MAGIC TO SHOW US *WE'RE* NOT.

UNLESS HE'S A SKRULL AND DID FAKE SKRULL-MAGIC TO PUT US OFF OUR GAME.



STOP
FREAKING
ME OUT.

JUST
SAYIN'.

AND AT ANY
TIME, ANY OF US
COULD BE KIDNAPPED
AND **REPLACED**
BY SKRULLS.

NOW
YOU'RE
GETTING
IT.

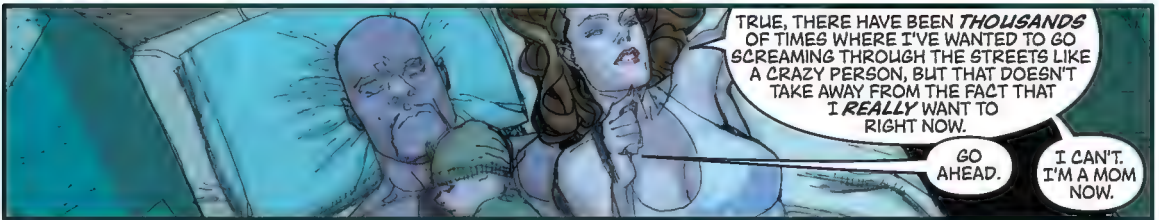


WE'VE BEEN
INVADED!

YEAH.

IN MY WHOLE LIFE I HAVE NEVER
WANTED TO GO **SCREAMING**
THROUGH THE STREETS
LIKE A CRAZY PERSON
MORE THAN I DO
RIGHT NOW.

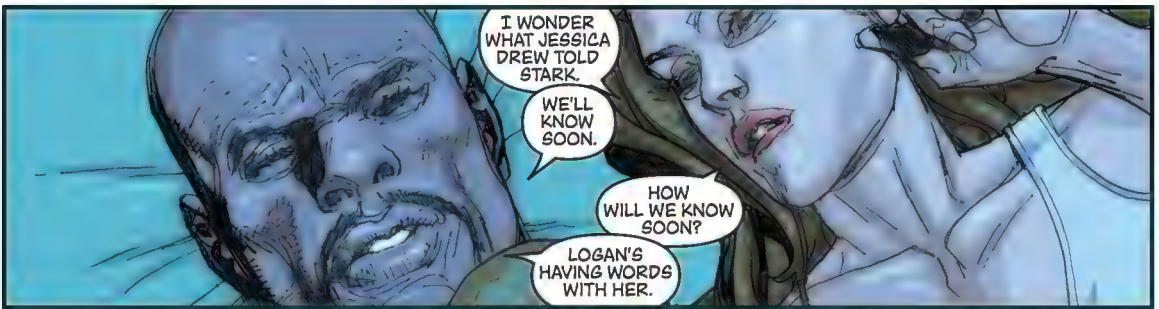
WELL,
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.



TRUE, THERE HAVE BEEN **THOUSANDS**
OF TIMES WHERE I'VE WANTED TO GO
SCREAMING THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE
A CRAZY PERSON, BUT THAT DOESN'T
TAKE AWAY FROM THE FACT THAT
I **REALLY** WANT TO
RIGHT NOW.

GO
AHEAD.

I CAN'T.
I'M A MOM
NOW.



I WONDER
WHAT JESSICA
DREW TOLD
STARK.

WE'LL
KNOW
SOON.

HOW
WILL WE KNOW
SOON?

LOGAN'S
HAVING WORDS
WITH HER.



REALLY?

OH,
REALLY.

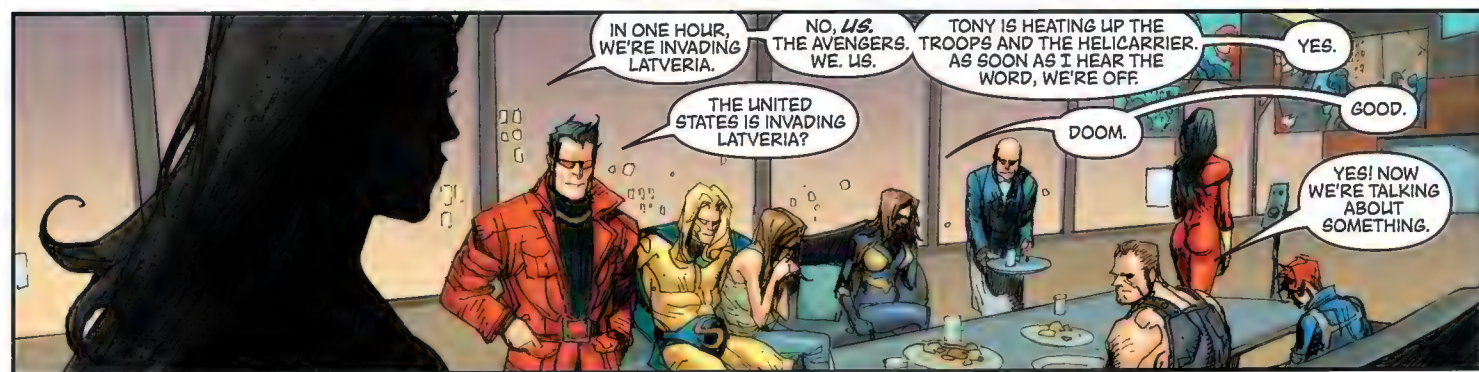
WORDS OR
CLAWS?



WE'LL FIND THAT OUT SOON TOO.

(I'M SURE IT'S A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH.)

OKAY, KIDS, THIS IS THE PLAN...



IN ONE HOUR, WE'RE INVADING LATVERIA.

NO, *US*. THE AVENGERS. WE. *US*.

TONY IS HEATING UP THE TROOPS AND THE HELICARRIER. AS SOON AS I HEAR THE WORD, WE'RE OFF.

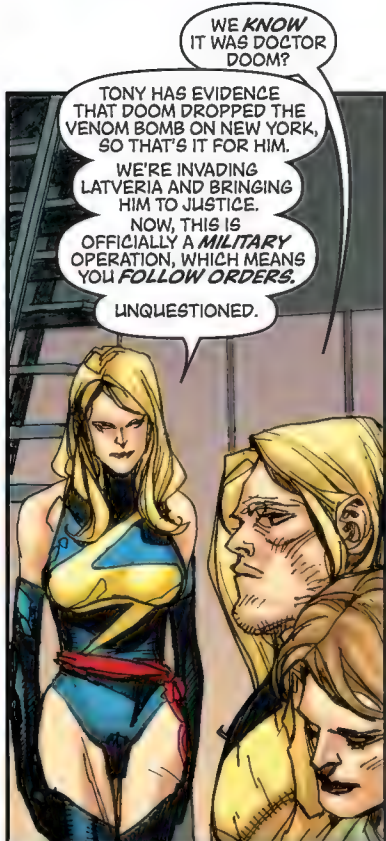
YES.

GOOD.

THE UNITED STATES IS INVADING LATVERIA?

DOOM.

YES! NOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING.



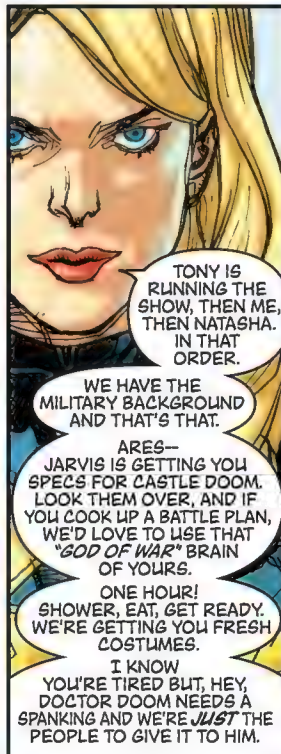
WE *KNOW* IT WAS DOCTOR DOOM?

TONY HAS EVIDENCE THAT DOOM DROPPED THE VENOM BOMB ON NEW YORK, SO THAT'S IT FOR HIM.

WE'RE INVADING LATVERIA AND BRINGING HIM TO JUSTICE.

NOW, THIS IS OFFICIALLY A *MILITARY* OPERATION, WHICH MEANS YOU *FOLLOW ORDERS*.

UNQUESTIONED.



TONY IS RUNNING THE SHOW, THEN ME, THEN NATASHA. IN THAT ORDER.

WE HAVE THE MILITARY BACKGROUND AND THAT'S THAT.

ARES— JARVIS IS GETTING YOU SPECS FOR CASTLE DOOM. LOOK THEM OVER, AND IF YOU COOK UP A BATTLE PLAN, WE'D LOVE TO USE THAT "*GOD OF WAR*" BRAIN OF YOURS.

ONE HOUR! SHOWER, EAT, GET READY. WE'RE GETTING YOU FRESH COSTUMES.

I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED BUT, HEY, DOCTOR DOOM NEEDS A SPANKING AND WE'RE *JUST* THE PEOPLE TO GIVE IT TO HIM.



ANY QUESTIONS?

CAN WE GO NOW?

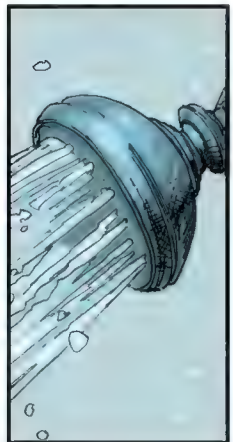
TONY NEEDS AN HOUR.

JERK TURNED ME INTO A VENOM.

ONE HOUR, JANET.



AGH...



HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET IN HERE?





LOGAN.

NEVER
GAVE BACK MY
KEY, AGENT
DREW.

FUNNY.

I'M SORRY
I ZAPPED
YOU BACK IN
CHICAGO.

TRY IT
AGAIN HERE
AND YOU'LL BE
HURTIN'.

WHAT'DYA
TELL STARK?



I TOLD HIM WE'VE BEEN
INVADED BY THE SKRULL EMPIRE
AND THAT HE NEEDS TO *DO*
SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

AND
WHAT DID
HE DO?

HE DID
WHAT WE DID...
HE FREAKED
OUT.

DID YOU
GIVE US
UP?



NO.

HE DIDN'T
MAKE YOU GIVE
US UP?

NO, BECAUSE
HE KNEW I
WOULDN'T.

AND HE THINKS THE
SKRULL PROBLEM IS JUST
A *LITTLE* BIT MORE
IMPORTANT.

HE THINKS
THERE IS A SKRULL
OR SKRULLS ON
THIS TEAM.

THERE'S
DEFINITELY
SKRULLS ON
THIS TEAM.

LIKE
STARK.



HEY, MAN,
THE ONLY PERSON
I KNOW *ISN'T* A
SKRULL IS *ME*.

DID FURY
TEACH YOU NOTHIN'?
YOU *BACK* YOUR
TEAM, DREW. YOU
DON'T *TURN* ON
THEM.

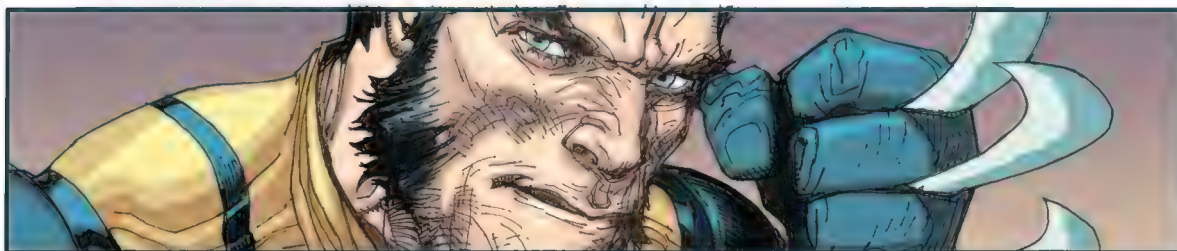
THE WORLD'S
COMING TO AN *END*,
LOGAN. THE *HUMAN*
RACE IS MY TEAM.

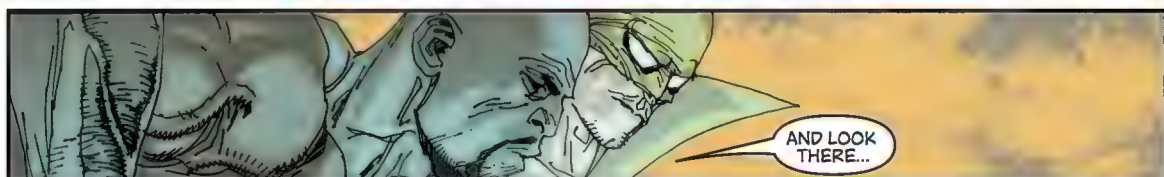
I'M WHERE
I THINK I CAN
DO THE MOST
GOOD! WHERE
ARE *YOU*?

WHERE
YOU CAN DO
THE MOST GOOD
FOR *WHO*?

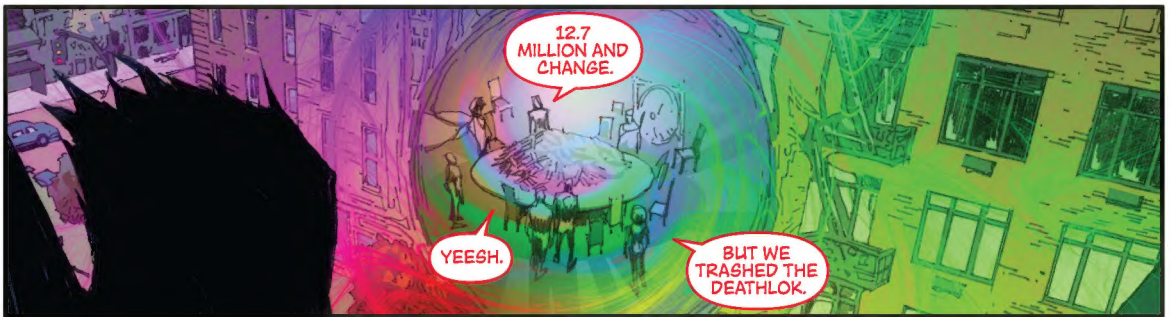
HEY, BABE,
IF YOU THINK
I'M A SKRULL,
SLICE ME.













"AS THIS LIVE SECURITY CAMERA
FEED SHOWS, THE AVENGERS
WERE ON THE SCENE, BUT STILL
THE QUESTION REMAINS--"

DEADLINENEWS SYMBIOTE-RELATED MADNESS TAKES OVER NEW YORK.

LIVE



THAT'S
NEW YORK
CITY?

DO YOU
SEE WHERE IT SAYS
NEW YORK CITY?

COME ON,
MAN...

DO YOU
SEE WHAT
I SEE?

SOME SORT
OF BIOLOGICAL
ATTACK.



OPPORTUNITY.
GRAND
OPPORTUNITY.



S'UP?

BOOM



OOF!!

TELL ME
YOU WERE STUPID
ENOUGH TO COME
ALONE, CAGE...



HARDLY.

TO BE CONTINUED...